

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 and 13-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7-9 and 13-15 are amended, and claims 1-6, 10-12 and 16-33 are cancelled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 7-9 and 13-15 are allowed.

Applicant gratefully appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by the Examiners during the personal interview.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because [e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection]. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 17 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0003308 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"); claims 2, 6, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim; and claims 3, 11, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,142 to Otsuka (hereinafter "Otsuka").

Claims 1-6, 10-12 and 16-33 are cancelled. Claims 7-9 and 13-15 are amended solely to correct informalities. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) and 103(e) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7-9 and 13-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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